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THE MASSACHUSETTS FLOOD.

LATEST DETAILS OF THE DISASTER.

ONE HUNDRED AND TEN BODIES THIS FAR RECOVERED—TERRIBLE DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY—MEASURES OF RELIEF—LOCAL COMMITTEES ALREADY ORGANIZED—AID FROM OTHER CITIES—THE STATE PROBABLY TO AFFORD RELIEF—THE WORK OF REBUILDING TO BEGIN AT ONCE.

Happily the details of the terrific disaster in Hampshire County, Mass., which are made known to our readers this morning do not confirm the wild rumors which at first arose, though the loss of life and the destruction of property are both very great. One hundred and forty-five persons are believed to have perished and \$1,000,000 of property to have been swept away, and from 30 to 400 families have been rendered homeless. To add to the general confusion and distress, thieves and rough characters from neighboring cities, and even from New-York and Boston, have poured in, eager for plunder. But the ruined communities are the first to take measures for their own succor. Temporary relief committees have been organized and have gone actively to work. A large meeting was held at Northampton last night, and steps taken to afford systematic and permanent relief. The available funds for this work now reach \$50,000. Military guards have been provided for protection from thieves. The business men are not borne down by the weight of the calamity, Messrs. Hayden, Gere & Co. being only prevented by the rain from beginning the work of rebuilding yesterday. It is expected that an inquiry into the causes of the disaster will be ordered by the Legislature.

SEARCHING FOR THE DEAD.

ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-FIVE PERSONS MISSING—ONE MILLION DOLLARS THE LIMIT OF DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY—THE SEARCH NEARLY AT AN END.

NORTHAMPTON, Mass., May 18.—The number of lives lost by the Mill River disaster can now be fixed with practical certainty at 145, and the value of the property destroyed at \$1,000,000. Sixty persons are known to have been lost who were residents of Williamsburg, four of Skinnerville, 30 of Haydensville, and 51 from Leeds. All other known inhabitants of these villages are accounted for, leaving only perhaps a casual traveler or stranger, whose disappearance may be discovered days hence and whose name may swell this awful death-roll. Estimates differ as to the value of the property destroyed, but it can scarcely go below the figure stated. Of this total, \$600,000 is the share of the mills and mill-owners; \$150,000 of the towns, for that sum must be expended to replace roads and bridges; \$150,000 of the operatives, farmers, and other individuals. It should be borne in mind that all losses are absolute. Insurance against fire does not repair the damages of flood, and practically nothing will be saved from the vast quantities of valuable machinery, costly stores, and manufactured products. All day long this ghastly wound in one of the fairest valleys of Massachusetts has been explored and probed by searchers, looking for the bodies of the lost and loved.

All day the exhumation and interment has been going on. The labors of a large force will be required for weeks to search thoroughly the debris covering the meadows. So intimately, however, were the villagers known to each other that it will not be necessary to prosecute the search for bodies much longer, nearly all the missing being already accounted for.

The supply of coffins was exhausted early in the day, and two bodies which were found after there were no more to be had were laid under a tattered coverlet in an open express wagon, and so driven through the streets of Williamsburg. Eighteen persons are missing from two houses which stood side by side at Leeds.

THIEVES AND HARBIES ON THE GROUND. A cold, drizzling rain has been falling, but in spite of this and the deep mud hundreds of vehicles and thousands of spectators have visited and traversed the scene of devastation. This afternoon the Canal Railroad resumed its trains to Williamsburg, and so did much to relieve the pressing demand for transportation. In the wake of the disaster come the harpies, and the teams and streets this afternoon were infested with gangs of the thieves, loafers and hard characters coming from the lower manufacturing villages and from cities as far away as Boston and New-York. Before noon a force of special police was summoned and promptly sent from Springfield, and later in the day the local company of militia was called out, as well as the Peabody Guards, one of the Springfield companies. These measures of self-protection were taken promptly, and further steps will be taken to-morrow should circumstances require.

PROGRESS OF THE SEARCH. Several bodies were found on the Florence meadows and taken to the carpenter-shop in Florence, among them that of Mary Woodard, daughter of P. B. Woodard, formerly of Northampton, but now of Savannah, Ga. Miss Woodard was visiting in Leeds. The body of a little child, one year old, was also brought to the carpenter-shop this morning. The bodies of two women were found in the debris on Guigler's meadow at Leeds, which were subsequently ascertained to be those of Mrs. Roberts of Williamsburg, and Mrs. Edward Hanson, the former being identified by rings on her fingers. The supply of coffins having been exhausted, the bodies were laid in an express wagon, side by side, and concealed from view by an old coverlet, on which the rain fell pitilessly. Mrs. Roberts' right arm remained stiff and stark extending upward, and as the team moved away to take the bodies to Williamsburg, the coverlet fell from the arm and revealed to the bystanders one ghastly hand protruding from the rear of the wagon, and pointed, like the very finger of death, down the desolated valley. Within the next hour, the body of her husband, Engineer Roberts, was discovered not far from the spot where she was found. Among the other bodies found were those of Mrs. Paet of Haydensville, Mrs. Robert Fitzgerald of Leeds, Eli Bryant of Haydensville, and formerly of Chesterfield; Jerry Dundon, an orphan boy, 9 years old, and one of the family of Dr. Johnson of Williamsburg. The bodies of two little children were brought to the Dead-house in Haydensville at 3 o'clock this afternoon. Eleven bodies have been found to-day. It has been reported that several bodies have been found in the Connecticut River at Holyoke and New-Haven, but whether true or not I have been unable to ascertain. Some think that some may have floated into the Sound, and that as many as 30 bodies will not be recovered. The bodies that have been found thus far were generally buried beneath heaps of rubbish, which have been overhauled by gangs of workmen. It will be several days before all these places can be examined. Some bodies have been found buried several feet in the sand and gravel. At the relief meetings in the Town Hall to-night, \$75 was subscribed in

sums of from \$3 to \$25 to hire men to search for the dead.

The total number of bodies recovered up to night-fall was 110, of which but one, that of an infant, had been recognized, and nearly all buried.

The search for the missing bodies will be resumed to-morrow and prosecuted with more system and thoroughness than before. Rumors of travelers and peddlers overtaken in the flood are insisted upon by eye-witnesses, and sickening odors arise from the heaps of ruins.

THE ROLL OF THE DEAD.

THE NUMBER OF LIVES LOST NOW STATED AT 145—REVISED LIST OF THE DEAD.

(GENERAL PRESS DISPATCH.)

SPRINGFIELD, May 18.—Fuller investigation only confirms the substantial accuracy of the estimate of the number lost furnished to the Associated Press last night.

The Springfield Republican's latest revised lists make the total number lost 145, distributed as follows among the four villages: Williamsburg, 60; Skinnerville, 4; Haydensville, 30, and Leeds, 51. The detailed lists for the four villages are as follows:

- AT WILLIAMSBURG. Adams, Mrs. W. D. and son Willie. Adams, Wm. H. Ashley, George. Atchison, John. Bartlett, Spencer and wife. Bartlett, Mrs. Livingston S. Bird, Frederick. Birmingham, Henry, wife and three children. Bingham, Mrs. Mary (widow). Burke, three children of James, two bodies recovered. Chandler, Mrs. E. M. and daughter May. Colver, Viola B. Downing, Mrs. Eliza and daughter. Downing, Mrs. (widow). Hitchcock, A. J. Hubbard, E. Johnson, Dr. F. M., wife, and three children. Johnson, Mrs. (widow). Kingsley, Mrs. E. D. and two children. Kingsley, Mrs. E. G. Knight, Mrs. Electra (widow). Lamb, Mrs. Geo. E. Lanchour, E. J. McGe, Marian. Murray, Frank, and wife. Roberts, Alex., wife, and two children. One body recovered.

Scully, Mrs. Patrick, and two children. Body of one recovered. Snow, Mrs. Wm., widow. Stephens, James. Train, Frank and wife. Wood, Mrs. Merrick (of Chicopee), and child. Ward, Jeremiah.

LEEDS.

- Ragley, Mrs. Mary. Bonney, Caroline (17 years of age). Bronette, Mrs. Louise and 4 children. Charpentier, Eliza. Caneby, 2 children of John. Cogan, Mrs. Jane. Cogan, Andy, 22 years of age. Cogh, Grace, 18 years of age. Davis, Samuel. Danton, Terry, 17 years of age. Dunlea, Mrs. 20 years of age. Dunning, Iva. Fitzgerald, Mrs. Robert, 47 years of age. Fitzgerald, Charles (7 years of age). Fitzgerald, Anna (7 years of age). Fitzgerald, Lottie, Bertha, and Tommy. Harmon, Mrs. E., and four children. Harrie, Mrs., 60 years of age. Isham, Ralph, 26 years of age. Lancy, Alex. O'Neil, Patrick T. O'Connell, Mrs. Patrick. Patrick, Charles. Patrick, Julia. Patrick, Mary. Rouse, Mary. Ryan, Mrs. Sarah J., and child. Sharp, Arthur. Sherwood, Eveline. Tennessy, Andrew, mother, wife, and daughter Eliza. Tennessy, Mrs. James, and two children. Vaughn, Capt. T. T., 36 years of age. Woodward, Mary.

AT HAYDENVILLE.

- Bessette, Mrs. Napoleon, and infant. Broadfar, Francis. Broster, Mrs. Antoine. Hogan, Mrs., and one child. Kapinger, John L. Kealey, Stephen, wife and daughter. Messie, Mrs., and two children. Miller, Agnes, George, and infant child of Samuel. Moeckler, Edward. Mosier, Mrs. J. Norris, Mrs. Posey, Mrs., and two children. Thayer, two children at Edward. Williams, Johanna. Wilson, Mrs. John, and three children.

SKINNERVILLE.

- Bryant, Eli. Hayden, L. Robbie. Hill, Mrs. Jacob. Gillman, Mrs. Jerome.

AID FOR THE SUFFERERS.

THE PEOPLE OF HAMPSHIRE COUNTY UNDAUNTED—EFFORTS TO ALLEVIATE THE UNIVERSAL DISTRESS—SEVENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS ALREADY AVAILABLE.

(BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.)

SPRINGFIELD, Mass., May 18.—Thorough and systematic measures have been devised for the distribution of the outside contributions, and every guaranty exists that good judgment and prompt action will go hand in hand in relieving the universal distress. The total amount of cash subscriptions now available is placed at not less than \$50,000. The spirit of the citizens is already moving, and while they are helped from abroad they will not fail to help themselves to the best of their ability. Employment for many workmen will be given by the firms, which are preparing for prompt resumption of business, and the immediate pitch of want will cease as soon as they can rely upon their ordinary wages. The manufacturers and capitalists will recover more slowly, and to them encouragement and forbearance should be shown, controlling as they do the broad and wages of so many operatives.

A large meeting of citizens of Northampton was held in the Town Hall this evening. Committees were appointed and systematic measures organized for obtaining and granting aid. The General Relief Committee will take charge of aid promptly after all contributions, and any subscriptions or offerings from abroad should be sent to them.

The Selectmen of Williamsburg to-day voted to petition the Legislature for a special act authorizing them to change the time of taking the annual valuation of the town from May 1 to June 1, and for extension this year from State and county taxes.

The inhabitants of Northampton, and Williamsburg have addressed themselves with spirit and resolution to the work of relief. Committees of organization and distribution were set at work to-day in each of the desolated villages, and all pressing cases of want are promptly relieved from all the neighboring villages and farming districts.

Supplies of food and clothing have poured in, and the contributions of money have been liberal and numerous. In Springfield, \$5,000 were raised by noon, and from the little towns throughout the county have poured in gifts of from \$1 to \$500 in cash.

The temporary Committee of Relief has established stations where information concerning the destitute is received and food and clothing are given. The people whose homes have not been destroyed are most generous in their hospitality to their distressed neighbors, and in many houses in Williamsburg and Haydensville the tables have

been set with food ever since the disaster. What is needed, and what cannot be given too freely, is money. Offers of assistance have been coming in from all parts of the country, and money in abundance will doubtless be forthcoming soon.

A RELIEF MEETING IN NORTHAMPTON.

A large meeting was held in the Town Hall here to-night, at which Major H. H. Longley, the Sheriff of the county, presided. H. K. Starkweather, the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, gave a general account of the work of the Relief Committee in providing food and clothing. Large bodies of men had volunteered from Hatfield, Hadley, and other towns to look for the dead. The number of lost from Leeds was now set at 51. The amount of money thus far received by the Northampton Committee was \$886, of which \$60 came from the Chicago Relief Committee of Watertown, Mass. Gen. John T. Otis of Leeds stated that 250 persons in that place were to be provided for, including 36 families. Of the 51 dead, 20 were still missing. A. R. More of the Haydensville Relief Committee said that the immediate necessity was not so great as that of the future.

The number of lost from Haydensville was 34, of whom 10 were missing, while in Williamsburg and Skinnerville the number reached 64, 16 of whom were still missing. Mr. Starkweather stated that a dispatch had been received to the effect that a committee from the Legislature would arrive in the morning to consider what action should be taken by the State in the way of building bridges and roads and granting other relief. Lewis Bodman, President of the Northampton Bank, said that it was not enough to give a man enough to keep him from starvation and nakedness, but that enough money should be given him to build him another house. A permanent Relief Committee of 12 gentlemen was appointed, with a Finance Committee, to solicit, take charge of, and distribute money for the relief of the sufferers. The following are the names of the gentlemen:

- H. K. Starkweather, Luther Bodman, Col. J. T. Otis, George H. Ray, D. W. Bond, E. P. Copeland, N. B. Hussey, A. J. Lincoln, James G. Aims, Gen. Oliver Edwards, Elias M. Smith, S. W. Lee, Jr.

The following are the Committee on Finance: Luther Bodman, J. T. Otis, Joel Hayden, Wm. Skinner, and Lewis Beaman.

A vote of thanks to those from Hatfield, Hatfield, and other neighboring towns was passed after sympathetic remarks. Mayor Lewis of New-Haven promised a generous response from the people of his city, and the meeting adjourned.

Gov. Talbot left for Boston this morning, and information has been received that police protection will be provided if necessary, and that supplies of food and clothing will be forwarded in a day or two. The special committee of the Legislature reached town late this evening, and to-morrow will personally inspect the scene of the disaster.

LEGISLATIVE AND MUNICIPAL RELIEF FROM BOSTON—THREE OR FOUR HUNDRED FAMILIES HOMELESS.

BOSTON, May 18.—A Committee of the Massachusetts Legislature, appointed to investigate and report upon the Mill River disaster in order to guide legislative action in extending necessary aid, started on their mission at 5 o'clock to-day. Mayor Cobb has called an informal meeting of citizens at the City Hall to-morrow morning, to devise measures of relief. Gov. Talbot, who returned from the scene of the disaster to-day, states that the immediate wants of the most destitute are being supplied from Springfield and other towns in the vicinity, but that more permanent and systematic relief is demanded. Besides the 300 or 400 families rendered homeless, a large number of operatives are thrown out of employment with the loss of everything except the scant clothing on their persons. Liberal subscriptions are being made in this city and vicinity for the relief of the sufferers. Among the earliest contributions was a \$500 check from Gen. B. F. Butler.

BUSINESS MEN UNDAUNTED.

HAYDEN, GERE & CO. ALREADY REBUILDING—GENERAL PREPARATIONS FOR RESUMPTION OF BUSINESS.

SPRINGFIELD, Mass., May 18.—Hayden, Gere & Co., at Haydensville, the proprietors of the destroyed brass works, set an example of promptness and energy by beginning the work of rebuilding this morning, but they have been obliged to desist on account of the rain. They will resume their work as soon as the weather allows, and hope to have their building ready for occupancy in three months' time.

H. L. James, the woolen manufacturer at Williamsburg, whose mill was left standing, although the waters damaged it badly, will prepare for the full resumption of business as early as possible.

Most of the other business men affected by the disaster will probably begin operations as soon as practicable, but the suffering of the laboring classes must inevitably be severe and protracted.

The dam of the brass works is to be rebuilt, lengthened 20 feet, and made as strong as possible. This is the only one of the destroyed mills which there has yet been any talk of rebuilding, and it is very doubtful if either Skinnerville or Leeds are rebuilt, unless some action is taken by the State in aiding the restoration of the dams. In Williamsburg, men are at work diverting the river back to its original channel, which it had abandoned entirely. Part of the water is now flowing through a broad ditch to the old channel. A dam is to be built, and the river will then be turned away from the broad expanse of what was once meadow and garden where it is now running, and which it has turned into a gullied waste of gravel and lowlands.

Though preparations for rebuilding some of the destroyed manufactories have begun, two of the thriving villages of last week are wiped out for a generation to come. Leeds is obliterated, and Mr. Warner, proprietor of the button factory, says he shall not rebuild there, as he can hire power cheaper elsewhere.

Neither will William Skinner rebuild his silk factory on its old site, though it may be restored in another locality. Mr. Lyman of the firm of A. A. Low & Co. of New-York, and other capitalist of that city are interested in this enterprise. Hayden, Gere & Co. are rebuilding already, and Williamsburg will soon gather their resources and restore some of its waste places.

CAUSES OF THE DISASTER.

PUBLIC OPINION DIVIDED—STATEMENTS OF AN OLD RESIDENT.

(BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.)

NORTHAMPTON, May 18.—Upon the question of the construction of the reservoir, public opinion is divided, or rather, the interests of the capitalists and manufacturers are so thoroughly mingled and distributed among all classes of people, that it is not easy to obtain a competent and impartial opinion. In some influential quarters there is a disposition to excuse the construction of the reservoir and justify the method and manner of its building. The editor of *The Hampshire Gazette*, the oldest and most influential paper in the county, said this evening, and will say in his paper to-morrow, that he is "not disposed to be hard on the owners or builders. The owners had more at stake in the dam, their lives as well as their property, than any others, and they built, as they thought, wisely. They did more than the County Commissioners ordered. It was an error of judgment, common to all men." It is doubtful if a thorough investigation of all the facts, and the intelligent judgment of competent engineers, will sustain so lenient a verdict.

E. C. Gardner, a civil engineer of Springfield, who was employed as a surveyor during the construction of the reservoir, told a re-

porter of *The Republican* to-day that no engineer's plan was accepted fully in the construction, and that the engineer in charge was entirely subservient to a committee of the company owning the water power, who frequently modified his suggestions to meet their notions of economy.

Some of the work was done without the oversight of an engineer at all. In the matter of the much talked of stone wall, in the center of the embankment, the contract did not call for eight feet in thickness at the base, but a thickness of between five and six feet, which was what *The Republican's* reporter found to be the actual fact. This notion is strengthened from a memory of the singular wording of the specification, which began by providing that the wall should be two feet thick at the top, increasing in thickness to a certain width at the base, rather than vice versa, as is usual. Still this central wall was considered of little moment by the Building Committee.

The main or entire strength of the dam was supposed to lie in the thick earthen embankment, and one of the Committee even soberly suggested that an eight-inch wall of brick would answer every purpose. The idea was that the principal office of this wall was merely to prevent the burrowing of water animals through it or its perforation by sticks and timbers.

OPINION OF THE STATE RAILROAD COMMISSIONER. A. D. Briggs of Springfield, State Railroad Commissioner, who was the first to make a bid for the construction of the reservoir, was also interrogated. His estimates proposed to make the cost of the work between \$90,000 and \$100,000, a sum so much larger than the Company was willing to pay, that his plan was immediately rejected, and he had no further interest in the affair. Mr. Briggs places all responsibility on the shoulders of the Building Committee.

As to the theory that the masonry in the embankment was a matter of secondary importance, that Mr. Briggs said, depended on circumstances. The earthwork, if honest and flawless, would, accidents aside, probably have furnished the requisite strength, but there was always a chance of its perforation from one cause or another, and the object of a central wall was that of a breakwater. This wall, if built of good material and fairly entrenched in hardpan, should be an element of strength. If, however, loosely constructed, and not deeply laid beneath the shifting surface earth, then there was the probability of the water ultimately insinuating its way beneath, and as the volume increased and the spaces widened this wall would become worse than useless.

To one of these causes, Mr. Briggs suspects, may be traced the fatal weakness of the Williamsburg Reservoir.

This impression is emphasized by some observations by Mr. Briggs while on a fishing excursion to the reservoir four or five years since.

He noticed that considerable water oozed from the base of the dam, all along its length, evidently caused by the heavy pressure on the other side, and called Gov. Hayden's attention to it, uttering words of warning, and telling him that if the dam did go off, it would sweep everything on its way into the Connecticut River.

Indeed, the more intelligent people down the valley, Mr. Briggs says, have lived with the shadow of this disaster haunting them for years.

Gov. Hayden himself was particularly nervous about it, and any casual conversation concerning the reservoir was nearly always accompanied with some allusion of presentment.

Some one, a short time since, asked Mr. Skinner, he believed, "What do you have for excitement up here nowadays?" "Well," he said, "we occasionally have a froeze; then there is a general alarm that the reservoir has broken loose."

A DESOLATED VALLEY.

TREES STRIPPED TO THE WOOD AND LAND SCRAPED BARE—MEADOWS AND FARMS DESTROYED.

(BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.)

NORTHAMPTON, May 18.—The scene in the ruined valley to-day was even more desolate than that of yesterday. Then the sun shone brightly, and lighting up the green Spring landscape, heightened the contrast between prosperity and desolation, but yet showed that the whole expanse of country was not all a blank waste. Now the narrow valley is to the eyes all shut out from the rest of the world by the low-lying clouds which reach across from mountain to mountain, and under the dark frown of the wild hills on either side, there is nothing to relieve the aspect of universal ruin, and turn the mind of the beholder to less mournful thoughts. The writer went on foot through the valley this afternoon from Haydensville to Williamsburg. Large gangs of men were pulling over piles of rubbish, looking for the dead, and little groups would occasionally gather in silence around them as they found what they were searching for. The crowd of curious visitors from all the surrounding country was nearly as great as on the day before, in spite of the rain. Among them were nearly all the students of Amherst College, who came over by permission of the President. The roads were filled with teams, and everything in Northampton, from a landau to a hay-cart, was in use. The trains ran through without interruption from Northampton to Williamsburg for the first time to-day, all the breaks having been repaired, though there were some weak spots over which the cars went very slowly. Once over these places, the passengers congratulated themselves that they had not been precipitated into the river. The trains from Springfield brought great crowds, among whom were many very rough-looking characters, and as there had been some robberies made and others attempted, the squad of police sent from Springfield in the afternoon was not deemed sufficient protection, and the line of the river was picketed in the evening in the four villages by two companies of militia.

The more one sees of the scene the more desolate it appears. Nearly every tree in the course of the torrent is filled with shreds of clothing which the cruel branches stripped from the helpless people whom the flood swept by, and the trees themselves are stripped by the torrent of bark and from trunk to twig, are left as naked and white and seared as the corpses of those they crushed and bruised. Above Williamsburg were about 15 acres of the finest meadow land in Hampshire County, which, before the flood, were worth \$200 an acre; now, nothing but the bare granite is left, and the land could not be given away. There is hardly a bit of meadow on the line of the river, from the reservoir to the Florence, which is not hopelessly ruined. Twenty-two bridges in all have been carried away by the flood.

A little babe seven months old was found near Williamsburg so disposed among the rubbish as to be entirely unharmed.

No inquest has as yet been decided on, but it is thought that the Legislature will order an investigation.

VIEWS OF AN ENGINEER.

THE WILLIAMSBURG DISASTER THE RESULT OF REPRESHIBLE CARELESSNESS—AN INSPECTION OF THE NEW-YORK STATE RESERVOIR RECOMMENDED.

(BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.)

INQUIRY AMONG PROMINENT ENGINEERS OF THIS CITY IN REGARD TO THE WILLIAMSBURG DISASTER WOULD SEEM TO SHOW THAT THE CALAMITY WAS ONE WHICH FROM THE NATURE OF THE CASE MIGHT HAVE BEEN PREVENTED BY THE EXERCISE OF ORDINARY CARE. EGBERT L. VIEH stated to the TRIBUNE reporter yesterday that though he had not seen anything like a good description of the structure at Williamsburg, the reservoir evidently burst from the

See Fifth Page.

WASHINGTON.

THE SANBORN INQUIRY.

CONTINUATION OF THE EXAMINATION OF PRESIDENT PRESBOTT—A SKILLFUL WITNESS AND A CONVENIENT MEMORY—TWENTY-EIGHT THOUSAND DOLLARS STILL UNACCOUNTED FOR.

(BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.)

WASHINGTON, May 18.—As predicted, the examination of the witness Prescott by the Ways and Means Committee in the Sanborn investigation has come to a halt, for the reason that Prescott declines to disclose the names of the persons to whom he paid all of the \$28,000 given him by Sanborn, except what he retained (about \$12,000) for his own compensation and expenses. The witness was the most skillful in his own behalf who has yet been upon the stand. He volunteered no information and made no statements. His answers were brief, even if they were not to the point.

It has been shown in this investigation that the witnesses having knowledge which they desire to withhold succeed best when they say the least and maintain their self-composure. This was the case with Prescott; what was important he forgot, and questions of slight importance he answered with a "Yes, Sir," or a "No, Sir." The Committee, so far as solid information goes, obtained less from him than from any one of the dozen witnesses heretofore examined. Some of his answers were so absurdly false that he set the Committee in a roar of laughter.

He said his memory was very good and he had before said that he kept no books, that he carried all the facts regarding his receipt of \$23,000 in a little over a year in his head, and remembered all about the \$28,000 received by him at different times from Sanborn, and how it was paid out; and yet, when he was asked what his conversation with Sanborn was a few weeks after Sanborn had been examined by the Committee, he could not remember a word of what had been said. Prescott did say, in the course of his examination, that he had not paid any of the \$28,000 to any Government officer or any member of Congress, and that it was expended to obtain information. He said he was not conscious that either he or Mr. Sanborn had done anything wrong. When asked if he telegraphed to Sanborn on Saturday, as directed by the Committee, he said he had not, but that he had written; that he was not certain where he was, and a letter would reach him as soon as a telegram; but he omitted the case, so far as he is concerned, by saying that he would not disclose what he did with the money, to whom he paid it, nor at what time, even though Mr. Sanborn should give his consent. This was the last question asked by the Committee, and his ground for refusal was that he could not conscientiously disclose the business (transactions) between a lawyer and his client. It was very apparent from the testimony that Prescott had done nothing to earn the immense sum paid him; but if all the facts could be known there might be a different showing. As the case rests now there is \$28,000 of the Sanborn money unaccounted for.

THE DISTRICT INVESTIGATION.

HOW OLD DEBTS ARE PAID BY MEMBERS OF THE KING. (BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.)

WASHINGTON, May 18.—James C. Gregg explained to the District Investigating Committee to-day a new way by which Senator Dorsey undertook to pay an old debt. Dorsey owed Gregg some money, which the latter was anxious to collect, and about the same time gave Gregg a favorable introduction to Gov. Shepard, who awarded to him certain contracts. Dorsey was to furnish the money with which to do the work, and in this way pay Gregg his debt. For some unexplained reason the arrangement fell through, and Gregg sold his contracts, receiving a percentage on the work done. Dorsey is a member of the Senate Committee on District affairs, and early in the Session, as Sub-Committee, drew up a bill to appropriate several millions for the Board of Public Works. The formation of the Investigating Committee prevented it from being reported.

W. W. Corcoran and ex-Senator Harlan are among the witnesses to be summoned for to-morrow.

ARGUMENTS OF JUDGE MERRICK AND MR. STELLABARGER FOR THE MEMORIALISTS—THE DISTRICT GOVERNMENT.

(GENERAL PRESS DISPATCH.)

WASHINGTON, May 18.—The arguments of the counsel for the memorialists in the District investigation were submitted this morning in pamphlet form. They treat generally of the violations of law by District officials, and their extradition to Samuel J. Gregg was examined this morning. He testified that he received three contracts from Gov. Shepard direct, to do paving and sewer work, and sublet them on percentage, because he did not receive money due him from Senator Dorsey, by which he expected to do the work himself. He became acquainted with Gov. Shepard upon a letter of introduction from Senator Dorsey. All he did was to secure the contracts. He then sub-let them, and W. H. Colt, who up to 1855 was in Jay Cooke & Co.'s bank, acted as his agent in collecting the percentage from the contractors, and witness divided with Colt.

The argument of Judge Merrick, of counsel for the memorialists, begins by setting forth that the first fatal vice which arrests attention and the poisonous operation of which is visible in every stage of the disastrous administration of the last three years was occasioned by twisting the organic act, through false constructions, into the establishment of two distinct, coordinate and practically independent powers within the Territory, and that which was meant to be a subordinate agency to act only by the bidding and within the limits to be prescribed by the Legislative Assembly, at the very outset asserted practically unbridled authority over the property interests and the taxing power of the community. The Board of Public Works at once asserted discretionary powers, and, having asserted, has continued to exercise them with a rashness, folly, and favoritism which has wrought oppression upon the citizen, bankruptcy upon the community and a shame on the nation. The argument then alludes to the fact that after the first investigation, as a method of precaution, Congress declared that the debt of the District of Columbia, including the debts of the late associations, should at no time exceed the sum of \$100,000,000, unless an increase over that amount should have been previously authorized by act of Congress. If then, after the war, the Board of Public Works, after their own adjournment, before that Committee, and after steadily going on with open eyes, violating the law of the land, trampling upon its statutes, defying public opinion and the remonstrances of the law-paying citizen, it is to be said that such a course of procedure is not among the highest crimes against society?

It is any answer to charge so grave? Is it any mitigation of injury to the people to plead that because the various members of the Board of Public Works are not clearly guilty of embezzlement or some other of those infamous crimes of which the penal law takes cognizance, that therefore they must be acquitted by the Committee and clearly proved guilty? Is it to be said that this defense is to be relied upon, for notwithstanding all the long list of abuses of power, and profligate expenditure, and incumbrance of the Territory, which have been laid before the administration, we hear from their external advocates, "Why, you have made no charge against the members of the Board?" In the eyes of statesmen integrity is measured by a far different standard from that which petty lawyers try in a police court. With statesmen it means integrity of law, implicit obedience to its requirements, complete acquiescence in its provisions, an exact and studious regard for the rights and property of the citizen.

Mr. Merrick then alluded to the general plan of improvements first submitted by the Board to the Legislative Assembly, and the deviation therefrom without the shadow of a law. He stated that the Board had no authority to increase the estimate submitted with the general plan, and the subsequent action of the Board, most convincingly caused him to think that they were either grossly ignorant of the law, or had assumed, or that it was contrived on purpose to deceive and entrap the people.

Of the District debt Mr. Merrick says: "From the accounts laid before the Committee by the Board of the District Government, it appears the aggregate expenditures of the District Government and of the Board of Public Works, from the year 1851, have been \$28,242,321. Crediting that sum with the appropriation made by the bounty of Congress of \$3,597,510, an expenditure is left chargeable to the people of the District of \$24,644,811. When to this are added the debts of the old corporations, of \$1,251,189 11, the sum reaches \$25,895,999 66. Of this last amount, by the receipts

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payment of 10 per cent assessment certificates, and \$9,000,000 of Government certificates, there have been received \$24,644,811 66. Now, how far this result may be an accurate exhibit of the true indebtedness brought upon the people, as it is not a matter of fact, we do not know. It is certainly a correct computation from the only accessible data which have been furnished. It is probably far in excess of the true amount, which would appear if all the elements were furnished by those who alone possess the sources of information." He then spoke of the mortgage tax, the absolute and crushing injustice, and the utter illegality.

Of the measurement he says: "This Committee has been especially charged to inquire whether correct measurements have been made of the work done by the Board. Here we have the most humiliating spectacle of fraud and falsehood in the long career of maladministration. It may seem to you that the measurements in the 1,530 contracts for work and improvements of various kinds it could not safely be maintained that there was absolute accuracy in a single one of them. I say it cannot be maintained that there was accuracy of measurement and charge in any one of them, for the reason that in all of them who opportunity for examination existed, there are errors, and in many cases enormous, may I not say willful errors, and in none of them have there been errors against or in favor of the contractor."

Speaking of the accounts of the treasury of the Board of Public Works, Mr. Merrick says: "The books and accounts of the office have in fact kept 'and answers it by saying, 'As honestly and unsatisfactorily as every other branch of the service has been administered.' And now, after it has been ascertained that there was accuracy of measurement and charge in any one of them, and open usurpation of power, who are to be held responsible? Are we to put the blame upon the contractor, in many cases enormous, may I not say willful errors, and in none of them have there been errors against or in favor of the contractor?"

As a remedy for existing evils Mr. Merrick argues in favor of a prompt and total reconstruction of the framework of the Government, a total reconstruction of the Board of Public Works, a total reconstruction of the Board of Public Works, a total reconstruction of the Board of